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PROTEST UNDER 37 CFR 1.291(a)

I am protesting against claim #1 in the following patent application that I became aware of just now.
Details of pending patent at which protest is directed are mentioned in italics below

United States Patent Application	***20020083190***
Kind Code	***A1***
Kamiya, Satoshi ; et al.	***June 27, 2002***

*Apparatus and method for **GFP** frame transfer*

Abstract

The GFP frame transfer apparatus according to the present invention includes a GFP path frame formation unit (7, 8, 11, 13) that stores a label corresponding to a path ID defined to uniquely specify a path from the Ingress node to Egress node within a GFP network in a predetermined field of the extension header area of the GFP frame, stores packets to be transferred through the path in the payload field of the GFP frame and forms a GFP path frame.

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Serial No.:	***024144***
Series Code:	***10***
Filed:	***December 21, 2001***

Claim #1 in the above mentioned patent application titled "Apparatus and method for **GFP** frame transfer" cannot be patented because the ANSI GFP standard provides for the extension header to be used for carrying technology

specific data link information such as the virtual link Id (please see T1X1.5/2000-024R5, Generic Framing Procedure (**GFP**) under GFP extension header subheading relevant page included in this protest). The GFP standard specifically provides for the use of the virtual link Id (please see definition of the GFP extension header in the GFP standard- relevant page included in this protest). In the packet switching world the virtual link Id is also called by various names such as the virtual circuit Id, label, tag or virtual circuit number whose purpose is basically to identify a virtual link. The virtual link is a logical link created between a source and a destination node which for logical purposes can be treated as a link. The virtual link Id is a logical Id that identifies a particular circuit or virtual link or virtual circuit also called a label switched path. Each logical path or logical link is assigned this value when it is set up and it is known by many different names such as virtual call Id or virtual path ID or virtual circuit Id or label or tag, all meaning the same thing. It identifies a unique circuit that is set up using a path traversing many physical links within a packet network between a source and a destination. The **GFP** path frame formation unit for which a patent claim is sought is nothing but the optional extension header provided in the ANSI GFP standard. The GFP standard mentions that one of the several purposes of the extension header is to carry a virtual link Id which is simply another name for label claimed in the invention. Claim #1 of the aforesaid patent application usurps this use of GFP extension header from the American National Standard (currently in the public domain) to itself.

The ability to carry a particular type of label and a particular arrangement of bits inside the optional GFP extension header for a particular type of switching may be patented but the ability to carry a label or virtual link Id cannot be patented because the standard specifically created the GFP extension header for the purposes of carrying such virtual link Id (aka label) information as mentioned in the standard itself. The standard only calls this as the virtual link Id. For the aforegoing reason claim #1 of the patent application should be denied.

Thanking You,
Sincerely,
Lorie Miller 9/16/03

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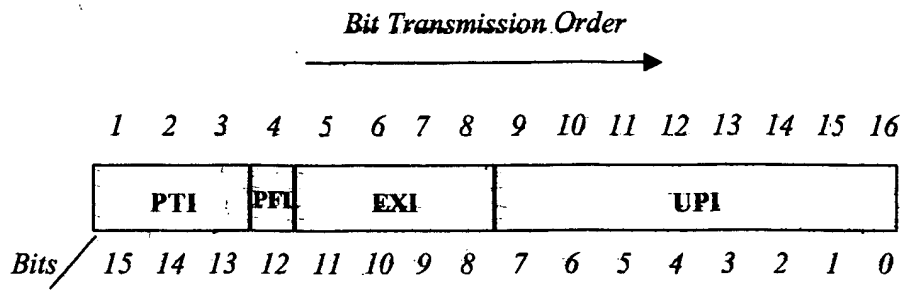

Figure 7: GFP Type Field Format

Defined Payload Type Identifiers, Extension Header Identifiers and Payload Identifiers are given in Tables 1, 2 and 3. PTI is set to zero (PTI=0) for GFP user frames conveying client data. PTI is set to one (PTI=1) for GFP user frames conveying far-end Client Signal Fail indications (clause 6.3.7). The Payload FCS is assumed present whenever PFI is set to one (PFI=1) and absent whenever PFI is set to zero (PFI=0). The interpretation of the UPI field for PTI values different from zero or one is for further study.

6.1.2.1.2 Type HEC (tHEC) Field

The two-octet Type Header Error Control field contains a CRC-16 generated sequence that protects the integrity of the contents of the Type Field by enabling both single-bit error correction and multi-bit error detection. The tHEC generation process is defined in clause 6.3.4.

6.1.2.1.3 GFP Extension Headers

A 0-to-60 octets extended field that supports technology specific data link headers such as virtual link identifiers, source/destination addresses, port numbers, Class of Service, extended header error control, etc. The length and format of the extension header is indicated by the value of the Type field.

6.1.2.1.4 Extension HEC (eHEC) Field

The two-octet Extension Header Error Control field contains a CRC-16 generated sequence that protects the integrity of the contents of the extended headers by enabling both single-bit error correction and multi-bit error detection. The eHEC generation process is defined in clause 6.3.4.

6.1.2.2 Payload Field

The Payload field contains the framed PDU. This variable length field may include from 0 to 65 535 – X octets, where X is the size of the Payload Header. It may include an optional Payload FCS field. The client user/control PDU is always transferred into the GFP Payload field as an octet-aligned packet stream.

6.1.3 Payload Frame Check Sequence (FCS) Field